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Letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine of 8 September 2017 on the groundless arrest by the FSB of the Russian Federation of a citizen of Ukraine, Pavlo Grib (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the groundless arrest of the FSB of the Russian Federation of a citizen of Ukraine Pavlo Grib

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest to the Russian side on the groundless arrest on August 25, 2017, of the 19-year-old citizen of Ukraine Pavlo Grib and his imprisonment in Krasnodar, the Russian Federation.

The Ministry strongly condemns the persecution by the Russian authorities of citizens of Ukraine in Russia and abroad, the groundless arrests of Ukrainians, violations of their right to a fair trial and condemnations on fabricated politically motivated cases.

Russia's practice of systematical violation the provisions of the Consular Convention between Ukraine and the Russian Federation regarding timely information on the arrests of Ukrainian citizens (within 3 days from the moment of arrest) and condoning the right of the consul of Ukraine to visit an arrested or convicted compatriot is extremely unacceptable. In the case of the arrest of Pavlo Grib, a message from the FSB Office in the Krasnodar as of August 25, 2017, was sent to the Consulate General of Ukraine in Rostov-on-Don by registered letter only on August 31, 2017 and received by the consular post on September 7, 2017 14 days after the arrest.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine requires the Russian side to provide immediately access for Ukrainian consuls to arrested Ukrainian citizen Pavlo Grib, comprehensive information on the place, reasons and circumstances of his arrest, conditions of detention and to ensure his immediate return to Ukraine.